The Credibility Challenge Answer Key

Objectives

In this activity students will:

- Learn how to evaluate Web Sources.
- Apply techniques for finding credible sources.

Materials

1. Web sites:
   - Usability.gov
   - Romantic Circles
   - Pharyngula
   - Quackwatch
   - NewsBusters
   - Daily Kos
   - Bits
   - Everything2
   - H2G2
   - Encyclopedia Mythica
   - Anne’s Anti-Quackery and Science Blog

2. Students’ CRAAP handout

Procedure

In the full class, ask students some general questions:

- How often do you get information from the Internet? How much of it do you believe?
- How reliable do you think Internet information is? How does it compare to information from books?

Tell students that one way to determine whether information is true and useful is to look at its authority. This lesson will talk about the role of authority, especially on the Internet, and how students can determine the authority of their sources.

Divide the class into groups of two to three students each. Assign each group to examine one of the following Web sites and share their thoughts on the credibility of the website using CRAAP test.

- Usability.gov (http://www.usability.gov) – no single stated author; government site
- Romantic Circles (http://www.rc.umd.edu) – multiple qualified authors; educational site
- Pharyngula (http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/) – single qualified author; viewpoint; sponsoring institution without political aims
- Quackwatch (http://www.quackwatch.com/) – single qualified author; viewpoint
- NewsBusters (http://www.newsbusters.org/) – multiple approved authors/editors; viewpoint; sponsoring institution with political aims
- Daily Kos (http://dailykos.com/) – multiple approved authors/editors; viewpoint
- Bits (http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/) – multiple approved authors/editors; sponsoring institution without political aims
- Everything2 (http://everything2.com/) – multiple authors of varying qualifications; community editing
- H2G2 (http://www.h2g2.com/) – multiple authors of varying qualifications; edited and unedited versions available; sponsoring institution without political aims
- Encyclopedia Mythica (http://www.pantheon.org/) – multiple authors of varying qualifications; editorial staff
- Anne’s Anti-Quackery and Science Blog (http://amr2you.blogspot.com/) – single non-qualified author; viewpoint

The activity is a modified version of activity taken from:
http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/page/the-credibility-challenge